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Identical letters dated 23 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 22 May 2000 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the attacks carried out on 15 and 17 May 2000 by United States and British aircraft against civilian installations in the north and south of Iraq, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. One child died as a result of the attacks, and 10 civilians were injured. Large numbers of cattle were also killed or injured.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 23 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter of 18 May 2000, I have the honour to inform you that United States and British aircraft carry out savage criminal acts on a daily basis, in addition to the series of crimes which they perpetrate against innocent civilians. They have carried out attacks on civilian installations in the north and south of Iraq which led to the death of one 13-year-old child and the injury of 10 civilian citizens, four of whom were sheep and cattle herders. Farms were set ablaze, and large numbers of cattle were killed or injured. Even animals do not escape these treacherous attacks. Details of this most recent criminal act are set forth below:

1. At 1820 hours on 15 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory flew 16 armed sorties with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace. The aircraft overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul and Irbil areas. They attacked service-related and civilian installations in part of Ninawa Governorate, causing the injury of two civilian citizens and extensive material damage.

2. At 2230 hours on 15 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory flew 26 armed sorties. Twenty sorties were from Saudi airspace, supported by one AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and six were from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by one E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Dhi Qar, Kut, Diwaniyah, Basra, Qadisiyah and Muthanna areas. They attacked service-related and civilian installations in Kut and Muthanna Governorates, injuring four civilian citizens, one of whom was a child, and causing extensive material damage to the installations.

3. At 1036 hours on 17 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft flew 18 armed sorties. Twelve sorties were from Saudi airspace, supported by one AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and six were from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by one E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew areas in Basra, Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Maysan, Qadisiyah and Najaf Governorates. They attacked an agricultural area in Mashkhab district, Muthanna Governorate, killing one 13-year-old child and injuring four sheep and cattle herders. Farms were set ablaze, agricultural crops destroyed and large numbers of livestock killed.

This brings to 21,211 the total number of armed aerial sorties flown by United States and British aircraft operating from bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey since their iniquitous onslaught of 17 December 1998.

The ongoing aggression of the United States and United Kingdom against steadfast Iraq has become a fixed policy for the achievement of the political objectives stated by the respective leaders of those two countries. By the most basic standards governing international intercourse, such aggression constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law

and the prevailing international conventions, all of which affirm that the threat or use of force against the integrity or independence of any State must be rejected.

Viewing the Governments of the countries in question as bearing full international responsibility for these criminal and provocative acts and for their consequences and the damage caused by them, the Government of Iraq reserves in full its inalienable right, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and international conventions, to take the measures necessary to defend the inviolability and sovereignty of Iraq's territory and the security of its people, as well as its right to seek compensation for all the losses it has sustained in human, material and moral terms owing to these same acts, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

(*Signed*) Tariq **Aziz**
Deputy Prime Minister
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq